

In the Abstract:

Kindly cancel the Abstract and replace as follows:

--A device (7, 8, 10) is provided for retaining free loose ends of tightening or fastening straps (5) or belts, or the like, particularly in articles for wearing, and more particularly in buoyancy compensator vests for underwater diving. A free end is a part of a segment of a strap or belt (5) which is secured by the other end to a first part (101) of the article, which first part (101) is designed to be connected to a second part (102) of the article, by said segment of the strap or belt (5). The second part (102) is connected in an intermediate portion of the segment of the strap or belt (5), whereby said segment of the strap or belt (5) is divided into a portion (105) for connecting the two parts (101, 102) of the article, and a free loose portion (205). The segment of the strap or belt (5) is connected to said first part (101) in a permanent manner, a widened member (7, 8, 10) being provided for fastening and retaining an end of the segment of the strap (5) to the corresponding first part (101). The member particularly is an elongated plastic ring (8, 10), and which member (8, 10) has an opening through which the other free loose end of the segment of the strap or belt (5) passes and is retained.--